



Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy Passing on the Baton

Autumn 2017



2 Timothy 4: 9-22

(sermons: Nov 26)

2 Tim 4:9-15 Loyal Friends and Deserters

- v.9 *come to me quickly – as Paul does not know how long he may have to live*
- v.9 *Demas, because he loved this world – Demas supported Paul during his earlier imprisonment in Rome (Colossians 4:14), which must have made his desertion even harder to bear; he seems to have been unwilling to take the risk of associating with Paul, rather than opposing Paul & his teaching.*
- v.11 *Luke – doctor, writer of Luke's Gospel and Acts, who accompanied Paul on some journeys and to Rome; he is the only one of Paul's circle left with him because others are visiting churches elsewhere.*
- v.11 *Mark – went with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey but left midway, so Paul wouldn't take him next time (Acts 15:36-40). Mark later joined Peter in Rome (1 Peter 5:13), where he was reconciled with Paul (see Colossians 4:10).*
- v.12 *Tychichus to Ephesus – perhaps carrying the letter (as he did before: Ephesians 6:21-22), to take over as church leader from Timothy so that he can come to Paul?*
- v.13 *the cloak – a heavy sort of cape; was Paul arrested in Troas, so had to leave things behind?*
- v.13 *my scrolls, especially the parchments – vellum parchments were only used for special documents, such as legal papers or scriptures (either Old Testament or writings about Jesus)*
- v.14 *opposed our message – or 'our words': so Alexander (a common enough name so not necessarily one of the other Alexanders in the Bible) may have been either spreading false teaching, or a witness against Paul at one of his investigations/trials. Paul leaves judgement to God (as Romans 12:19)*
1. What do these verses show about the sort of people who supported Paul and the ways they did so? What do they show about how and why some people opposed or deserted Paul?
 2. Paul clearly did not try to 'go it alone'. How can we make sure that everyone is supported? What can damage relationships in our group and in the church? How can we strengthen them?

2 Tim 4:16-18 Strength from the Lord

- v.16 *at my first defence – there would have been local investigations before Paul was sent for trial*
- v.16 *May it not be held against them – Paul understood and forgave weakness, as opposed to opposition that undermined God's work (compare his attitude to Alexander in verse 14)*
- v.17 *the Lord stood at my side – perhaps in a vision (as in Acts 23:11)*
- v.17 *delivered from the lion's mouth – not literally, as Paul, a Roman citizen, wouldn't have been sent to the wild animals in the arena.*
- v.18 *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack – not necessarily leading to his acquittal, or release, which Paul does not seem to be expecting in 4:6-8; rather that the Lord will enable him to stand firm in his faith until the end of his earthly life, when he will bring him 'safely to his heavenly kingdom'.*

3. How did the Lord support Paul when others let him down? What mattered more to Paul than his own safety and freedom? Where did he place his confidence and what was he looking forward to?
4. *If you would like to*, share experiences of how the Lord has supported *you* in difficult situations, whether directly or indirectly through other people and circumstances.

2 Tim 4:19-22 Last Greetings

- v.19 *Priscilla and Aquila – a Jewish Christian couple who accompanied Paul sometimes; it is unusual to have the wife named first.*
- v.19 *Onesiphorus – see 2 Tm 1:16-18.*
- v.20 *I left Trophimus sick in Miletus – even though God did sometimes give healing through Paul (see Acts 14:8-10 in Lystra, Timothy’s home town), this didn’t always happen*
- v.21 *Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia – not mentioned elsewhere, some Latin rather than Greek names; Claudia is a common female name.*
- v.22 *with your spirit (singular = Timothy)... with you (plural = church in Ephesus)*
5. What more do these last verses show about Paul’s friends and supporters?
How many more ways do we have of keeping in touch than were available to Paul? Do we use them?

2 Timothy as a Whole

6. Looking back at Paul’s 2nd Letter to Timothy, what are its main message?
How does that message speak to you and to our church at the moment?